

that Oregon has repealed the Compulsory Vaccination Law.

Of these, eight seem to have no license, or at least no record can be found of that fact; 16 are homeopaths, and 2 are eclectics. It certainly is a great surprise to see the names of so many homeopaths in the list, for one would imagine that vaccination was right in line with "similia similibus." The "antis" are making all the capital they can out of the death of one child from tetanus, some time ago, probably due to uncleanness. The parents of this child had probably not read the advice of the San Francisco Board of Health, and *acquired the habit of cleanliness, or cleanness.*—ED.)

#### THE DRUGGIST QUESTION—ANOTHER VIEW.

To the Editor of the STATE JOURNAL:—In the November number of the JOURNAL, a communication from Dr. Musgrove on "The Druggist Question," only partially reaches the truth, from my standpoint. While in some sections druggists may be under the influence of the nostrum manufacturers and endeavor to devote most of their attention to that portion of the drug business, is his brother druggist, in some other section, trying to do a legitimate prescription business, but under the control of the nostrum-prescribing physician, any better off? I have seen many a physician's fee go astray by his prescribing articles like "Gude's pepto-mangan," "listerine," "Fellow's syrup," etc., to prescription-reading patients who afterward bought these articles in the original package and advise families or friends to use them as "Dr. So and So" had prescribed them under similar conditions. I have many a recipe on file that, calling for "A's this" and "B's that," mixed, looks like a ready-made suit badly altered to fit the customer, and probably fits the patient's case about as well as such a suit would fit his body. Let the physician first rid himself of the nostrum-prescribing habit, and the druggist who wants to do a legitimate business will only too gladly follow his lead and return to the simple drugs and pharmacopeal preparations.

DAVID H. FLETCHER.

(The JOURNAL has over and over again called attention to the harm which doctors do to their patients and to themselves when they prescribe this "ready-to-take" medicine. Why they continue to do it, the good kind Lord alone knows! It has been alleged that they do it because they do not know enough to write a prescription, and possibly there is a good bit of truth in that. At any rate, they do it and they themselves have had more to do with debauching the profession of pharmacy than any other factor. The physician has been too credulous; has had too little thought for the commercial interests back of manufacturing; has regarded all manufacturers too much in the light of philanthropists; has had too little thought for his own good. Probably, too, he has had far too little instruction in legitimate materia medica.)

#### Patent Medicine Advertising.

We observe that the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, is beginning to print the formulæ of proprietary remedies along with the advertisement. While this might strike some as a case of an eleventh hour repentance, it is to us a gratifying sign of progress in the right direction.

We do not hesitate to assume that hereafter no contract can be made with *The Journal of the American Medical Association* to advertise a proprietary remedy in which it shall not be stipulated that the formulæ shall be a portion of the advertisement.

As a corollary to this position, it will follow that no reputable medical journal will in future venture to make a contract to advertise a proprietary remedy unless the formula shall be a part of the advertisement.—*Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey.*

#### PRECOCIOUS MENSTRUATION.

I was recently called to see a child who had swallowed a baby pin and was at once struck with the unusual development of the child. It was two years and four months of age, but had the body and limbs of a much older child.

The child was born May 13, 1902, and the mother noticed soon after its birth that the external genitals were enlarged. She asked her attendant about it and was told that it was a little swelling, which would soon disappear. The child was fretful and cried practically all the time when awake, till it was six months old. Its sleep had never been good, and it was always restless. When six months old the mother noticed that the child was bleeding as if menstruating. The flow became very free and the child sank into its first peaceful sleep. The flow continued for 3 or 4 days, just as mother, but she did not consult her physician. After 28 days the flow again made its appearance and continued for the same time and in the same quantity. Since then the child has menstruated every 23 days regularly for the same number of days and showing the same quantity, soiling 2 napkins a day, except that on two occasions there was a little delay, corrected by warm drinks and foot baths. The child is of normal height and face for one of her age. The breasts are well developed and of good size, as are the nipples. The trunk and legs show the development of a much older child. The hips are broad and rounded, and the calves well developed. The mons veneris is large and covered with a good growth of long, silky hair, which is light in color but beginning to change to a darker shade. The labia are large and very prominent.

So far as the literature in private and public libraries shows, there is but one recorded case of menstruation before the age of one year, and that showed the establishment of the menses just prior to that age. This case is unique in that the menses were established at apparently the earliest age on record.—*Ford in Journal of the American Medical Association.*

#### WATCH YOUR LEGISLATORS!

The following list, arranged, for convenience, by counties, has been compiled from the newspaper reports of the result of the last election. The letter (s) following a name indicates a State Senator, and the letter (a) an Assemblyman. Names printed in black face type are those of gentlemen who have replied to the letters sent them by your secretary and the secretary of the Homeopathic State Society, and they have indicated their intention to leave the medical law alone.

It is now up to each county to watch its legislators and see that, in the coming session, these gentlemen do no tampering with two extremely valuable laws. First, the medical law; second, the law requiring vaccination of school children.

Members should study this list carefully, pick out the names of men they know, and write to them at once expressing their views in regard to the two laws mentioned. Remember that we are not merely a few weak individuals, but that the two societies now represent over 2,000 physicians of California.

It is part of every doctor's life work to shield and guard the public welfare in all things pertaining to health. Here is some work for you to do right along that line. Do not neglect it. Both of these laws are vitally important for the public good; they must not be tampered with.

Alameda—Mattos (s), Simpson (s), G. R. Lukens (s), Strawbridge (a), J. C. Bates, (a), Walsh (a), J. J. Burke (a), Bliss (a), Espey (a), W. H. Waste (a).

Alpine—McKenney (a).

Amador—McKenney (a).

Butte—Gates (a).

Calaveras—McKenney (a).